Cultivation of Vanila

3167. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the development of vanila cultivation.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers are given any assistance or incentive for production, processing and marketing of vanila;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total production of vanila produced in the country during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Some of the programmes being implemented by the Spices Board for improving production/productivity, processing and marketing of vanila are :

(1) Providing financial assistance @ Rs. 5000/- per ha. for making up new planting in the growers' field by meeting 50% of the cost of cultivation.

(2) Production and supply of Tissue Culture Plantlets of vanila at subsidised rate of Rs. 1/- per plantlet.

(3) Providing financial assistance and technical knowhow for establishing and maintaining demonstration plots of vanila in cardamom growing areas.

(4) Implementation of two projects with the financial assistance of Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology under Ministry of Science and Technology by the Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI) of the Spices Board. These projects are :

(i) Vanila Development using Tissue Culture Plantlet through unemployed youth.

(ii) Tissue Culture Vanila Product Plan-under this project the possibility of using vanila tissue culture plantlets vis-a-vis stem cuttings will be demonstrated.

(5) Development and perfection of a curing method for vanila beans suited to local condition by ICRI.

(6) Development of a Protocol for Invitro Multiplication of Vanila by ICRI. This technology has been transferred to Commercial laboratories.

(e) The areas planted under the Spices Board's programme and those under the initiative of the elite growers are yet to commence commercial production. The current yield is from few growers who had started cultivation a while ago. The estimated production during 1995-96 was around one tonne.

Japanese Investment

3168. PROF P.J. KURIEN :
DR. C. SILVERA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese investment in India has remained stagnant or declined during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts are being made to attract more Japanese investment in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. The details of foreign direct investment approved from Japan during the Eighth Plan period are as under :

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1992	610.23
1993	257.43
1994	400.90
1995	1514.26
1996 (Upto Sept.)	803.50

Government constantly reviews the investment policy so as to make it increasingly competitive and investors friendly. In addition, the Central Government has recently revamped the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to make the approval process quicker and more transparent. In addtion, with a view to attract greater inflows of foreign direct investment, the Government has constituted a Foreign Investment Promotion Council.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

3169. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial units sponsored/directed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission in Gujarat;

(b) the details of work done by these units during each of last three years; and

(c) the number of cooperative and individual units to whom assistance has been provided by the State Khadi and Village Industry Board during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Details of number of units assisted by KVIC and KVIB and the details of production by them